

***Rubus acaulis* Michx.**  
dwarf raspberry  
Rosaceae (Rose Family)

**Status:** State Threatened

**Rank:** G5S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock (1964): A strongly rhizomatous, erect, herbaceous perennial with annual flowering stems that are  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 6 in. (2 to 15 cm) tall and more or less finely covered with long, soft, shaggy trichomes (hairs). There are 2 to 5 leaves per stem, with conspicuous ovate-lanceolate to oblong-ovate, entire stipules, and trifoliate blades. The leaflets are ovate,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 in. (1 to 5 cm) long, rounded to acute, and toothed. The flowers are usually single and terminal. The calyx is finely covered with long, soft, shaggy trichomes and is narrowly lanceolate, with reflexed lobes that are  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. (8 to 11 mm) long. The nearly erect petals are uniformly pink to crimson or rose or sometimes yellowish toward the base, narrowly obovate, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. (8 to 16 mm) long, with a clawlike base. There are 30 to 40 stamens and 20 to 30 hairless pistils. The filaments are rather broad and narrowed abruptly at the tip. The style is slender but enlarged slightly upward to the rather large capitate-diskoid stigma. The drupelets (the individual fruits that make up the berry) are coherent and form a globular, reddish berry about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (1 cm) broad.

**Identification Tips:** *Rubus acaulis* is most closely related to *Rubus pedatus*. These two species can be distinguished by their petals and whether or not they have stolons. The petals of *R. acaulis* are more or less reddish-tinged,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. (8 to 16 mm) long, and the plant is not stoloniferous. The petals of *R. pedatus* are white, mostly less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. (8 mm) long, and the plant is usually stoloniferous.

**Phenology:** This species is identifiable from June to July.

**Range:** This species is found from Alaska across North America to Newfoundland and Labrador, south to Vancouver Island and southern British Columbia, in the Rocky Mountains of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, and in Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan, and Maine. In Washington, it is found in Okanogan County.

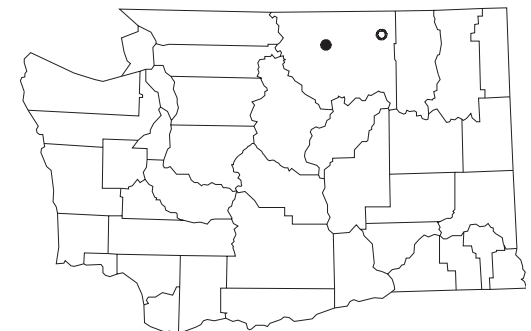
**Habitat:** *Rubus acaulis* grows in environments ranging from tundra to mountain meadows, bogs, and woods. In Washington, this species grows in damp to wet *Picea engelmannii* forests, just out from the forest edge, at an elevation of 3550 to 5900 ft (1082 to 1798 m).

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Known distribution  
of *Rubus acaulis*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Dana Visalli

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Associated species include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), willow (*Salix* sp.), twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), currant (*Ribes* sp.), horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.), grasses, and arrowleaf sweet coltsfoot (*Petasites sagittatus*).

**Ecology:** This species is adapted to a wide variety of environments ranging from relatively dry to relatively moist areas.

**State Status Comments:** The species is known from one historical and one recent occurrence in Okanogan County.

**Inventory Needs:** Appropriate suitable habitats in Okanogan County should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Known occurrences should be revisited and updated information obtained.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Specific threats have not been identified for this species. However, the small range of this taxon in Washington and the small number of known occurrences are major concerns.

**Comments:** A synonym of *Rubus acaulis* is *Rubus arcticus* ssp. *acaulis* (USDA).

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 597 pp.

USDA, NRCS. 2003. The PLANTS Database, Version 3.5 (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.